

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claims 1-4; AMEND claims 5-24 and ADD claims 25-28 in accordance with the following:

Claims 1-4 (cancelled).

5. (currently amended) The electronic commerce system according to claim-428, further comprising a purchase and sale information managing unit concluding a transaction of the registered sale or purchase request, which is obtained by said searching unit.

6. (currently amended) The electronic commerce system according to claim 26, wherein the change condition of the desired price is a purchase or a sale of a different commodity, a purchase or sale amount of a corresponding commodity, a payment method, or a delivery of the commodity.

7. (currently amended) The electronic commerce system according to claim-~~32~~7, wherein the change condition of the desired price is a purchase or a sale of a different commodity, a purchase or sale amount of a corresponding commodity, a payment method, or a delivery of the commodity.

8. (currently amended) The electronic commerce system according to claim-428, wherein the change condition of the desired price is a purchase or a sale of a different commodity, a purchase or sale amount of a corresponding commodity, a payment method, or a delivery of the commodity.

9. (currently amended) The electronic commerce system according to claim 26, further comprising a unit displaying a transaction partner that sets a transaction condition and a transaction partner that does not set a transaction condition by making a distinction between the

transaction partners, when transaction partners searched by said searching unit are listed and displayed.

10. (currently amended) An electronic commerce system aiding in a purchase and a sale of a commodity, comprising:

a registered commodity data storing unit storing a desired sale or purchase price of a commodity, and information about ~~the commodity, including a public condition and a condition~~ changing the desired sale or purchase price depending on a time ~~or purchase and sale states of other companies~~; and

a unit changing a desired price of the commodity when a time stored in said registered commodity data storing unit elapses, thereby whereas said unit providing automatic strategic price setting according to the time or the purchase and sale states of ~~the other companies~~ by initially setting the information about the commodity to be transacted and automatically changing from private to public the information about the commodity according to the elapse of time or transaction states of the other companies, based on ~~the a~~ public condition.

11. (currently amended) An electronic commerce system aiding in a purchase and a sale of a commodity, comprising:

a registered commodity data storing unit storing information about a sale or purchase desire of a commodity along with a public condition ~~and a change condition for changing the desired sale or purchase price according to elapse of time or purchase and sale states of other companies~~; and

a unit making the sale or purchase desire of the commodity public if the public condition stored in said registered commodity data storing unit is satisfied, thereby whereas said unit providing automatic strategic price setting according to the elapse of time or the purchase and sale states of ~~the other companies~~ by initially setting the information about the commodity to be transacted and automatically changing from private to public the information about the commodity according to the elapse of time or transaction states of the other companies, based on the public condition.

12. (currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium on which is recorded a program for causing a computer to perform a process aiding in a purchase and a sale of a commodity, said process comprising:

storing a desired sale or purchase price of a commodity, and information about ~~the commodity, including a public condition,~~ a change condition and price of the desired sale or purchase price ~~for changing the desired sale or purchase price according to elapse of time or purchase and sale states of other companies;~~ and

searching for at least one of a desired price and information about a change condition and a change price of the desired price of a transaction partner that registers a sale of a designated commodity in response to a purchase request designating the commodity, and for a desired price and information about a change condition and a change price of the desired price of a transaction partner that registers a purchase of a designated commodity in response to a sale request designating the commodity, in stored registered commodity information, ~~thereby providing~~ whereas said searching provides automatic strategic price setting according to the elapse of time or the purchase and sale states of ~~the~~ other companies by initially setting the information about the commodity to be transacted and automatically changing from private to public the information about the commodity according to the elapse of time or transaction states of the other companies, based on ~~the~~ a public condition.

13. (currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium on which is recorded a program for causing a computer to perform a process aiding in a purchase and a sale of a commodity, said process comprising:

storing a desired sale or purchase price of a commodity, and information about ~~the commodity, including a public condition and a condition~~ changing the desired sale or purchase price depending on a time or purchase and sale states of other companies; and

changing a desired price of the commodity when a stored time elapses, ~~thereby providing~~ whereas said changing provides automatic strategic price setting according to the elapse of time or the purchase and sale states of the other companies by initially setting the information about the commodity to be transacted and automatically changing from private to public the information about the commodity according to the elapse of time or transaction states of the other companies, based on ~~the~~ a public condition.

14. (currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium on which is recorded a program for causing a computer to perform a process aiding in a purchase and a sale of a commodity, said process comprising:

storing information about a sale or purchase desire of a commodity along with a public condition and a change condition for changing the desired sale or purchase price according to elapse of time or purchase and sale states of other companies; and

making the sale or purchase desire of the commodity public if the stored public condition is satisfied, ~~thereby providing~~ whereas said making provides automatic strategic price setting according to the elapse of time or the purchase and sale states of the other companies by initially setting the information about the commodity to be transacted and automatically changing from private to public the information about the commodity according to the elapse of time or transaction states of the other companies, based on the public condition.

15. (currently amended) An electronic commerce method aiding in a purchase and a sale of a commodity in an electronic commerce system, comprising:

storing a desired sale or purchase price of a commodity, and information about the commodity, ~~including a public condition,~~ a change condition and a change price of the desired sale or purchase price for changing the desired sale or purchase price according to elapse of time or purchase and sale states of other companies; and

changing a price if the information about the change condition or the change price in the stored information is satisfied, ~~thereby providing~~ whereas said changing provides automatic strategic price setting according to the elapse of time or the purchase and sale states of the other companies by initially setting the information about the commodity to be transacted and automatically changing from private to public the information about the commodity according to the elapse of time or transaction states of the other companies, based on ~~the a~~ public condition.

16. (currently amended) An electronic commerce method aiding in a purchase and a sale of a commodity in an electronic commerce system, comprising:

storing a desired sale or purchase price of a commodity, and information about the commodity, ~~including a public condition,~~ a change condition and a change price of the desired sale or purchase price ~~for changing the desired sale or purchase price according to elapse of time or purchase and sale states of other companies; and~~

searching for at least one of a desired price and information about a change condition and a change price of the desired price of a transaction partner that registers a sale of a designated commodity in response to a purchase request designating the commodity, and for a desired price and information about a change condition and a change price of the desired price of a transaction partner that registers a purchase of a designated commodity in response to a

sale request designating the commodity, in the stored information, ~~thereby providing whereas~~ said searching provides automatic strategic price setting according to the elapse of time or the purchase and sale states of the other companies by initially setting the information about the commodity to be transacted and automatically changing from private to public the information about the commodity according to the elapse of time or transaction states of the other companies, based on ~~the~~ a public condition.

17. (currently amended) An electronic commerce method aiding in a purchase and a sale of a commodity in an electronic commerce system, comprising:

storing a desired sale or purchase price of a commodity, and information about ~~the commodity, including a public condition,~~ a change condition and a change price of the desired sale or purchase price ~~for changing the desired sale or purchase price according to elapse of time or purchase and sale states of other companies;~~ and

obtaining a registered sale or purchase request corresponding to a sale or purchase request by searching for a desired price and a change condition of the desired price of a transaction partner that registers a sale of a designated commodity in response to the purchase request designating a desired price of a commodity and a condition which can be satisfied in a transaction of the commodity, and for a desired price and a change condition of the desired price of a transaction partner that registers a purchase of a designated commodity in response to the sale request designating a desired price of a commodity and a condition which can be satisfied in a transaction of the commodity, in the stored information, ~~thereby providing whereas~~ said obtaining provides automatic strategic price setting according to the elapse of time or the purchase and sale states of the other companies by initially setting the information about the commodity to be transacted and automatically changing from private to public the information about the commodity according to the elapse of time or transaction states of the other companies, based on ~~the~~ a public condition.

18. (currently amended) An electronic commerce method aiding in a purchase and a sale of a commodity in an electronic commerce system, comprising:

storing a desired sale or purchase price of a commodity, and information about ~~the commodity, including a public condition,~~ a change condition and a change price of the desired sale or purchase price ~~for changing the desired sale or purchase price according to elapse of time or purchase and sale states of other companies;~~ and

obtaining a registered sale or purchase request corresponding to a designated desired price by searching for a desired price and a change condition of the desired price of a transaction partner that registers a sale of a designated commodity in response to a purchase request designating a desired price of a commodity and a condition which can be satisfied in a transaction of the commodity, and for a desired price and a change condition of the desired price of a transaction partner that registers a purchase of a designated commodity in response to a sale request designating a desired price of a commodity and a condition which can be satisfied in a transaction of the commodity, in registered commodity information stored in said registered commodity data storing unit, ~~thereby providing~~ whereas said obtaining provides automatic strategic price setting according to the elapse of time or the purchase and sale states of the other companies by initially setting the information about the commodity to be transacted and automatically changing from private to public the information about the commodity according to the elapse of time or transaction states of the other companies, based on ~~the~~ a public condition.

19. (currently amended) An electronic commerce system aiding in a purchase and a sale of a commodity, comprising:

registered commodity data storing means for storing a desired sale or purchase price of a commodity, and information about ~~the commodity, including a public condition,~~ a change condition and a change price of the desired sale or purchase price ~~for changing the desired sale or purchase price according to elapse of time or purchase and sale states of other companies;~~ and

means for changing a price if the information about the change condition or the change price, which is registered to said registered commodity data storing means, is satisfied, ~~thereby~~ whereas said means providing automatic strategic price setting according to the elapse of time or the purchase and sale states of ~~the~~ other companies by initially setting the information about the commodity to be transacted and automatically changing from private to public the information about the commodity according to the elapse of time or transaction states of the other companies, based on ~~the~~ a public condition.

20. (currently amended) An electronic commerce system aiding in a purchase and a sale of a commodity, comprising:

registered commodity data storing means for storing a desired sale or purchase price of a commodity, and information about ~~the commodity, including a public condition,~~ a change condition and a change price of the desired sale or purchase price ~~for changing the desired sale~~

~~or purchase price according to elapse of time or purchase and sale states of other companies;~~
and

searching means for searching for at least one of a desired price and information about a change condition and a change price of the desired price of a transaction partner that registers a sale of a designated commodity in response to a purchase request designating the commodity, and for a desired price and information about a change condition and a change price of the desired price of a transaction partner that registers a purchase of a designated commodity in response to a sale request designating the commodity, in registered commodity information stored in said registered commodity data storing means, thereby-whereas said searching means providing automatic strategic price setting according to the elapse of time or the purchase and sale states of the other companies by initially setting the information about the commodity to be transacted and automatically changing from private to public the information about the commodity according to the elapse of time or transaction states of the other companies, based on the a public condition.

21. (currently amended) An electronic commerce system aiding in a purchase and a sale of a commodity, comprising:

registered commodity data storing means for storing a desired sale or purchase price of a commodity, and information about ~~the commodity, including a public condition,~~ a change condition and a change price of the desired sale or purchase price ~~for changing the desired sale or purchase price according to elapse of time or purchase and sale states of other companies;~~
and

searching means for obtaining a registered sale or purchase request corresponding to a sale or purchase request by searching for a desired price and a change condition of the desired price of a transaction partner that registers a sale of a designated commodity in response to the purchase request designating a desired price of a commodity and a condition which can be satisfied in a transaction of the commodity, and for a desired price and a change condition of the desired price of a transaction partner that registers a purchase of a designated commodity in response to the sale request designating a desired price of a commodity and a condition which can be satisfied in a transaction of the commodity, in registered commodity information stored in said registered commodity data storing means, thereby-whereas said searching means providing automatic strategic price setting according to the elapse of time or the purchase and sale states of the other companies by initially setting the information about the commodity to be transacted and automatically changing from private to public the information about the commodity according

to the elapse of time or transaction states of the other companies, based on ~~the a~~ public condition.

22. (currently amended) An electronic commerce system aiding in a purchase and a sale of commodity, comprising:

registered commodity data storing means for storing a desired sale or purchase price of a commodity, and information about ~~the commodity, including a public condition,~~ a change condition and a change price of he desired sale or purchase price ~~for changing the desired sale or purchase price according to elapse of time or purchase and sale states of other companies;~~ and

searching means for obtaining a registered sale or purchase request corresponding to a designated desired price by searching for a desired price and a change condition of the desired price of a transaction partner that registers a sale of a designated commodity in response to a purchase request designating a desired price of a commodity and a condition which can be satisfied in a transaction of the commodity, and for a desired price and a change condition, of the desired price of a transaction partner that registers a purchase of a designated commodity in response to a sale request designating a desired price of a commodity and a condition which can be satisfied in a transaction of the commodity, in registered commodity information stored in said registered commodity data storing means, thereby whereas said searching means providing automatic strategic price setting according to the elapse of time or the purchase and sale states of ~~the other companies~~ by initially setting the information about the commodity to be transacted and automatically changing from private to public the information about the commodity according to the elapse of time or transaction states of the other companies, based on the ~~public condition~~.

23. (currently amended) An electronic commerce system aiding in a purchase and a sale of a commodity, comprising:

registered commodity data storing means for storing a desired sale or purchase price of a commodity, and information about ~~the commodity, including a public condition and a condition~~ changing the desired sale or purchase price depending on a time ~~or purchase and sale states of other companies;~~ and

means for changing a desired price of the commodity when a time stored in said registered commodity data storing means elapses, thereby whereas said means providing automatic strategic price setting according to the elapse of time or the purchase and sale states of ~~the other companies~~ by initially setting the information about the commodity to be transacted

and automatically changing from private to public the information about the commodity according to the elapse of time or transaction states of the other companies, based on the public condition.

24. (currently amended) An electronic commerce system aiding in a purchase and a sale of a commodity, comprising:

registered commodity data storing means for storing information about a sale or purchase desire of a commodity along with a public condition ~~and a change condition for changing the desired sale or purchase price according to elapse of time or purchase and sale states of other companies;~~ and

means for making the sale or purchase desire of the commodity public if the public condition stored in said registered commodity data storing means is satisfied, ~~thereby whereas~~ said means providing automatic strategic price setting according to the elapse of time or the purchase and sale states of the other companies by initially setting the information about the commodity to be transacted and automatically changing from private to public the information about the commodity according to the elapse of time or transaction states of the other companies, based on the public condition.

25. (new) An electronic commerce system aiding in purchase and sale of commodities, comprising:

first and second registered commodity data storing units, each storing at least information identifying commodities associated with registering transaction partners, commodity prices, and information relating to public disclosure indicating whether other transaction partners are allowed access to the commodity prices;

a unit searching for a first commodity identified by the information stored in said first registered commodity data storing unit as publicly disclosed and identified by the information stored in the second registered commodity data storing unit, and reading price change conditions including the information identifying a second commodity transacted with the first commodity, which are registered for another transaction partner; and

a sale and purchase situation judgment unit judging both the first commodity and the second commodity as tradable candidates, if the information identifying the second commodity is stored in the first registered commodity data storing unit as publicly disclosed or publicly nondisclosed by referring to the information of the second commodity registered in association with the first commodity in the second registered commodity data storing unit.

26. (new) The electronic commerce system according to claim 25, further comprising outputting transaction completion information of the first and second commodities when a first price of the first commodity stored in the first registered commodity data storing unit matches a changed price obtained based on a change condition of a second price for the first commodity registered in the second registered commodity data storing unit, and a third price for the second commodity stored in the first registered commodity data storing unit matches a fourth price for the second commodity registered in the second registered commodity data storing unit.

27. (new) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for aiding in purchase and sale of commodities that when executed causes a computer to perform a process comprising:

storing in a first registered commodity data storing unit at least information identifying a first set of commodities, commodity prices, and information relating to public disclosure, indicating whether other transaction partners are allowed access to the commodity prices, in association with a first transaction partner for each commodity handled by the first transaction partner;

searching for a first commodity identified by the information stored in the first registered commodity data storing unit as publicly disclosed that corresponds to the information identifying the first commodity from a second registered commodity data storing unit storing the information identifying a second set of commodities, a commodity price, and price change conditions including the information of a second commodity transacted with the first commodity, which are registered for a second transaction partner; and

judging both the first and second commodities as tradable candidates, if the information identifying the second commodity is stored in the first registered commodity data storing unit as publicly disclosed or publicly nondisclosed, by referring to the information of the second commodity registered in association with the first commodity from the second registered commodity data storing unit.

28. (new) An electronic commerce method aiding in purchase and sale of commodities, comprising:

storing as first registered commodity data for a first transaction partner, at least information identifying a first set of commodities and for each commodity in the first set, a commodity price and information relating to public disclosure, indicating whether access by other transaction partners is allowed;

searching for the information identifying a first commodity included in the first registered commodity data as publicly disclosed that matches the information identifying the first commodity in second registered commodity data containing information identifying a second set of commodities handled by other transaction partners and, for each commodity in the second set, the commodity price and price change conditions, including information identifying a second commodity transacted with the first commodity; and

judging both the first and second commodities as tradable candidates, if the information identifying the second commodity is stored in the first registered commodity data as publicly disclosed or publicly nondisclosed, by referring to the information identifying the second commodity registered in association with the first commodity in the second registered commodity data.